

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02 XMB-07

OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 /175 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:JKBISHOP:LB

APPROVED BY AF/W - MR. LOUGHRAN

AFR/CWA - MR. ELLIS

EB/IFD/ODF - MR. LINTON

TREASURY - MR. SHAPIRO

AF/P - MR. PELTIER

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O R 222218Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, PFOR, IBRD, GH

SUBJECT: GHANA DEBT: PUBLICITY REGARDING SETTLEMENT

REF: A. ACCRA 1635, B. LONDON 3549, C. STATE 55399

1. UK HIGH COMMISSION ACCRA HAS REPORTED TO LONDON FORDWOR
WAS VERY UPSET TO LEARN WEST AFRICA PLANS ARTICLE ON DEBT
RESCHEDULING AGREEMENT (REFTEL B). BOTH FORDWOR AND
DEBRAH REPORTEDLY SAID PREMATURE PUBLICITY WOULD ALLOW
OPPONENTS TO MOBILIZE THEIR FORCES BEFORE NRC HAD RATIFIED
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AGREED MINUTE AND COULD JEOPARDIZE RATIFICATION. UK HIGH

COMMISSION REPORTED IT VIEWED DANGER PREMATURE PUBLICITY AS SERIOUSLY AS FORDWOR AND DEBRAH, ADDING INCONGRUOUSLY THAT TERMS OF SETTLEMENT BECOMING KNOWN IN ACCRA DUE LEAKAGE FROM OTHER CREDITOR EMBASSIES.

2. DEBRAH AND FORDWOR ASKED UK TO PERSUADE WEST AFRICA POSTPONE PUBLICATION UNTIL MAY 10 ON GROUNDS NEGOTIATING TEAM WILL NOT BE ABLE MAKE ITS REPORT TO NRC UNTIL FIRST MEETING AFTER ASHLEY-LASSEN'S RETURN, AND NRC MAY NEED UP TO MONTH TO STUDY AGREED MINUTE. ALL BRITISH HAVE BEEN ABLE DO IS PERSUADE WEST AFRICA TO SPECIFY TERMS THEMSELVES IN SECOND OF TWO ARTICLES WEST AFRICA PLANS PUBLISH IN NEXT TWO ISSUES.

3. IN RESPONSE RENEWED BRITISH REQUEST THAT USG TRY HELP HOLD LID ON PUBLICITY, DEPARTMENT HAS AGREED INFORM INQUIRERS THAT TERMS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY SOME PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS AND USG NOT IN POSITION TO DISCLOSE PRIOR SUCH APPROVAL. BELIEVE THIS IS APPROPRIATE RESPONSE FOR BULGARIANS, BUT SEE NO REASON REFUSE DISCLOSE TERMS TO CANADIANS, WHO COULD OBTAIN FROM OTHER SOURCES ANYWAY.

4. COMMENT - THE CAT IS HALF OUT OF THE BAG AND IS NOT GOING TO BE STUFFED BACK. FORDWOR/DEBRAH AND BRITISH CONCERN APPEARS EXAGGERATED, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW GOG ABILITY CONTROL POPULAR MEDIA AND LIKELIHOOD READERS LEGON OBSERVOR, WHICH APPEARS BE PUBLICATION ABOUT WHICH ALL CONCERNED, WILL LEARN OF TERMS THROUGH OTHER SOURCES. HOWEVER, SEE NO HARM COMPLYING WITH BRITISH REQUEST, ESPECIALLY SINCE AMERICAN PRESS INTEREST INPERCEPTABLE. DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED BY INDICATION ASHLEY-LASSEN WAS NOT NEGOTIATING WITHIN PREVIOUSLY AGREED GUIDELINES BUT MUST SELL SETTLEMENT TO FELLOW NRC MEMBERS. KISSINGER

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